

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING THE FIRST SHILOH HOUSING CORPORATION

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2014*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Shiloh Housing Corporation for its inspired and visionary role in the successful conversion of the Ellicott Mall Development to an impressive mixed-use neighborhood including patio homes, town houses, apartments and a senior citizens center. Today, we come together in a community celebration to reflect on how far this neighborhood has come, and embrace the bright future ahead.

Over twenty years ago, this area was an eight-tower, crime-ridden housing project in the heart of the City of Buffalo. Today, under the decades-long stewardship of the First Shiloh Baptist Church and its member-led Housing Corporation, this community exemplifies the good work happening to transform our hometown. From disinvestment to investment, from rundown to a return of residents filled with pride and optimism, its metamorphosis is truly remarkable.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to the unique public-private partnership that came together in the early 1990's to harness the power of the federal low-income housing credit program which provided the financial foundation that fueled overdue demolitions, renovated apartments and private residences guided by the spirit of the newly formed First Shiloh Housing Corporation.

The First Shiloh Housing project began laying this foundation in 1992 when the Church, along with Norstar Development and the city of Buffalo, took matters into their own hands through a development strategy that included the residents. Putting people first was the guiding principle of the first president of the First Shiloh Development Corporation, Clemmon H. Hodges, whose name now graces the community center.

With \$40 million of reconstruction completed in 1998, First Shiloh added management and maintenance to its services to assist the rebirth of the neighborhood, now known as Ellicott Town Center.

Today, surrounded by a downtown, water-front and growing medical campus, this neighborhood is attracting increased commercial attention as a once shuttered hospital is now undergoing a \$20 million renovation in close proximity to the Ellicott Town Center.

With a richly deserved sense of accomplishment and confidence in the future, I am honored to join together with the board of directors of First Shiloh Housing Corporation under the leadership of the Reverend Jonathan R. Staples and President Grace Tate for this well-deserved community celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with the residents, families, stakeholders and fellow of-

ficials to offer congratulations and deepest appreciation for the faith and fortitude of First Shiloh Baptist Church. Thank you for allowing me to share this success story as it begins its next chapter.

## ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, yesterday I offered an Amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill that would support environmental infrastructure projects through the Army Corps of Engineers for financially distressed municipalities.

We require, quite rightly, water and sewage treatment plants to maintain federally mandated standards to keep our water supply safe and sustainable. About 72% of the population is served by sewage treatment plants, but 3.8 million of those people are served by facilities providing less than secondary treatment, which is a basic requirement by federal law. Often, the financial burden to meet these requirements falls on state and local governments. This can leave communities experiencing particular financial distress with outdated infrastructure and facing down huge costs to bring them in line with requirements. And this affects all of us, as aging wastewater management systems discharge billions of gallons of untreated sewage into U.S. surface waters each year.

The Army Corps of Engineers can provide invaluable assistance to financially strapped communities through its general construction fund, specifically for wastewater and water improvements.

The amendment I introduced would direct \$44 million through the general construction account to support environmental infrastructure programs for financially distressed municipalities, in the hopes that we can provide some support for some of the most pressing wastewater improvement projects in the country.

This same amount has been included for environmental infrastructure programs in the past, but no funding is included in this year's bill.

Federal assistance has not kept pace with the needs of wastewater treatment systems, despite the fact that authorities agree that

funding needs remain very high: The EPA estimates that the country will need to invest \$390 billion over the next 20 years to replace existing systems and build new ones to meet demand. Furthermore, they estimate that there will be a \$6 billion gap between current spending projections and need, if no changes are made.

These infrastructure projects are extremely important to many communities across the country, including in my own state of Rhode Island. Though I withdrew my amendment, I look forward to working with the chair and ranking member of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee to ensure that these vulnerable communities receive support to ensure that Americans across the country have access to clean, safe water and sewage systems.

## CONGRATULATING THE LEHIGHTON BAND FOR 150 SEASONS OF PERFORMANCES

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2014*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Lehighon Band of Lehighon, Pennsylvania as the organization celebrates 150 seasons of performances.

Founded in 1864, the Lehighon Band has provided live music to the people of Carbon County and its surrounding communities for over a century. The Lehighon Band is comprised of approximately fifty members of the community with ages ranging from 16 to 80 years old. The group performs multiple concerts a year, including a spring concert to kick off each new season, a concert to celebrate Christmas, and several performances each summer in Weatherly and Lehighon that feature musical programs highlighting pieces from a variety of periods and styles. The Lehighon Band also makes itself available for performances at picnics, reunions, and other community engagements. Through the generosity and support of local professionals, businesses, and individuals with a strong love and appreciation for music and the arts, the band has continued to perform at no cost to the public, selflessly donating their time and talents for the enjoyment of others. I know that I speak on the behalf of the Carbon County community when I say that the Lehighon Band is a source of pride for not the residents, but also for the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, as they celebrate 150 seasons of performances, I would like to thank the Lehighon Band for their musical contributions and wish them many more successful years to come.

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